

K-567

Circa 1870

Locust Grove General Store

Locust Grove

Private

Located in the crossroads village of Locust Grove, through which the county's historic main north-south route (now Route 213) formerly passed, the two-storey, frame Locust Grove General Store is one of very few Kent County gable-front store buildings of the late nineteenth century that have survived relatively unchanged. It still retains the original drawers, bins, and shelving of the large sales room. Typical in form of vernacular Victorian village store buildings, the Locust Grove store is not typical in its detail. Using building parts available through millwork catalogues, the builder of this store went beyond the functional minimum to provide an attractive approach end and exposed southeast side, through a handsome bracketed cornice and attractive main and side entries. The store is also unusual in having a perpendicular dwelling for owner or shopkeeper attached to a rear corner, though originally without interior access. In upper Kent County only Hicks' Store in Galena (K-578) has a similar arrangement. Built, owned, and sometimes operated by the Hill-Beasten family for about 100 years, the store was an important center of activity in the once-thriving village. In addition to selling the usual grocery and farm-support items, this general store served for a time as a post office, sold patent medicines, and even provided a tooth-pulling service. Together with its surviving account and inventory books, the building is a document of late nineteenth and early twentieth century local commercial and social life.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Locust Grove General Store

and/or common Locust Grove General Store

2. Location

Northwest corner, intersection of Shallcross Neck Road and spur
street & number of Rt. 444 (Kentmore Park-Shrewsbury Neck Rd.); ⁽¹⁰⁰⁻¹¹¹⁷⁾ not for publication

city, town Locust Grove vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u>X</u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u>X</u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>X</u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William V. McCann

street & number 140 W. Tenth Street telephone no.: (212)-691-4593

city, town New York state and zip code NY 10014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 51

street & number Cross Street folio 653

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys NONE

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-567

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Locust Grove General Store is a circa 1870 - 1872 two-storey, frame, gable-roofed vernacular Victorian store building with some Italianate details. It is located on the northwest corner of the crossroads in the village of Locust Grove. The main entry is in the center bay of the southwest gable end, which faces the road to Shrewsbury Neck. The entry gable end is three bays wide on the first storey and two on the second, with a single window in the gable. A shed-roofed three-bay porch with locust posts that spans the gable end and, adjacent to the west, a one-storey, one-bay-wide and-deep contemporary storeroom with dentilled parapeted end to hide the rear-sloping shed roof. A large open sales room with original shelves, drawers and bins occupies most of the interior of the main section. To its rear, spanning the width of the rear of the building, is a hall with a handsome stair of the type more commonly found in dwellings of the period rather than in commercial buildings. Entry to this hall was originally from the sales room, from the west side through an under-landing door, and through a door with transom and sidelights in the fourth and last bay on the Shallcross Road side of the building. The southeast corner of a two-storey gable-roofed frame dwelling perpendicular to the store abuts the store at the store's northwest corner. The three-bay southeastern portion of the dwelling, with two rooms on the first storey and three on the second, appears also to date from the late nineteenth century, perhaps later than the store. A two-storey gable-end continuation wing was first added and later a one-storey shed-roofed wing. Originally there was no interior access from store to dwelling, but in the 1950s a one-story hipped-roof addition with access to both older sections filled in the L formed by the store and house. The store is currently used for the sale of "collectibles," and the house is occupied by the proprietor. The store building's second story, originally two rooms and rear stair hall, is used as an apartment for the owner.

The main section measures about 20 feet wide by 32 feet deep. The southeast side on the first storey has no windows in the first two bays from the front, evidently to provide maximum storage and display space along the sales room wall. In the third bay is a secondary entry to the sales room. In the fourth bay is the unusual residential main-entry type of architrave noted above. On the second storey are four evenly-spaced double-hung 6-over-6 windows. The northwest long side at present has no openings on the first storey, although originally there were two doors, one from the sales room and one from the rear hall. The second storey is three bays deep with 6-over-6 windows although the rearmost is set lower because it is a stair landing window.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-567

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1870 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Locust Grove General Store is one of very few Kent County gable-front store buildings of the second half of the nineteenth century that have survived largely unchanged. The now-antique shop in Georgetown (K-285) and two stores in Galena (K-576 and K-578) are also gable-front stores but appear to be somewhat later and are more altered. Typical in form of Victorian village store buildings, the Locust Grove Store is not typical in its detail. Using building parts available through millwork catalogues, the builder of this store went beyond the functional minimum to provide an attractive approach end and exposed southeast side. The Locust Grove Store is also unusual in having a perpendicular dwelling for owner of shopkeeper attached to a rear corner, though originally without interior access. In the upper part of Kent County, only Hicks' Store in Galena (K-578) has a similar arrangement. Besides being a center of economic activity for the Locust Grove area, this store also provided a social gathering place, in the store around the stove in the winter, on the porch in mild weather. Besides stores, the only other public buildings in Locust Grove were a school (K-566) and a Methodist church (K-568). In addition to selling the usual grocery and farm-support items, this general store served for a time as a post office, sold patent medicines, and even provided a tooth-pulling service. Together with its surviving account and inventory books, the building is a document of late nineteenth and early twentieth century local commercial and social life.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The 1860 Martenet's Map of Kent County, Maryland, shows (though indistinctly) two buildings at the jog in the main Chestertown-Galena Road that was to be labelled Locust Grove on the 1877 atlas map of Kent County, on which additional buildings are mapped. The two buildings appear to be a store and a school, but the 1860 map is not noted for precision and it is therefore

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-567

Martenet's Map of Kent County, Maryland. Baltimore: Simon J. Martenet, 1860.

An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, Md. Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing and Stevenson, 1877.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Margaret Q. Fallaw, Survey Consultant		
	County Commissioners of Kent County		
organization	Historical Society of Kent County	date	August 1, 1985
	Courthouse		778-4600
street & number	Cross Street	telephone	778-3499
city or town	Chestertown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Measuring about 10 feet deep by 16 feet wide, the one-storey storeroom, said to have been a "grocery room" and later for storage of large bulky items such as fertilizer, is one bay wide and one bay deep. Its front wall is flush with the front gable end of the main section, with a batten at the joint.

The original section of the dwelling is circa 16 feet deep by 32 feet wide; it is three bays wide and two deep. The original northwest room is said to have contained the kitchen and has a corner stair in the northeast corner, at the partition wall. The first addition to the dwelling is at its northwest gable end and was for a new kitchen and bathroom above. Almost 8 feet wide with one bay, it is two-storey; walls and roof lines are continuous with the original section. Joining this first addition is a second one, though one-storey, of equal width and also one bay wide; it has a shed roof. There are three narrow bedrooms in the second storey of the original dwelling, two of them over the large northeast room of the first storey.

The mid-twentieth-century infill addition, for residential use, is about 20 feet wide by 15-1/2 feet deep. It is two bays wide and one deep.

In what appears to be the center of the store building, through the ridge, there is a low (ca. one foot tall), plain chimney of parged and painted brick. Upon it is a handsome clay chimney pot three to four feet tall. Such chimney pots are not commonly seen in Kent County. Either they have not survived or they were rarely used. The chimney was used for first and second storey stoves. The second-storey mantel, facing into the front room, is symbolic only. With a plain, broad frieze, plain pilasters and bases, and a rectangular shelf with bed molding trim the same as used on door trim as a backband, the "opening" is closed and the baseboard run across it. The dwelling has one chimney, in the approximate center of the present overall structure, between the two original rooms. Also low, with brick parged and painted, and with a cap, it also has a chimney pot, similar to but not identical with that of the store. There are only symbolic, vestigial mantels; the chimney is only ca. 18" square throughout and was intended for use only with stoves.

The frames of most of both store and dwelling are clad in horizontal, lapped weatherboard. That of the main store section and the side store room has ca. 4-3/4" exposure, except for the rear gable of the store, where there is vertical board and batten. The southeast gable of the dwelling is also covered with board and batten siding. The exposure of the weatherboard of the dwelling is ca. 6" to 6-1/2", possibly indicating a later construction date. A former entry in the southeast bay of the dwelling has been closed with weatherboard; it was opposite a front entry in the same bay. Much of the weatherboard on the rear appears to be replacement. The exposure of the two-storey dwelling addition is 5", and that of the 1950s infill addition is ca. 6-1/2". There are double corner boards on most corners.

All roofs except those of the side storeroom and the one-storey dwelling addition are now covered with asphalt shingles. The storeroom's shed roof is of standing-seam metal, and that of the one-storey dwelling addition is corrugated metal.

All sections have a low foundation with the siding low to the ground.
(continued)

The main store section and the original dwelling have brick foundations and crawl spaces. The two dwelling additions and the 1950s infill section have concrete foundations or parging on other materials, possibly concrete block.

The store main entry, one step up from a concrete, ground-level porch floor said to have replaced a former brick porch floor, has handsome double doors, each with two large lights over a single square panel. The panels are recessed and slightly raised and have applied ogee-and-bevel panel molding. The opening is 50-1/2" wide. Typical of local store doors from about 1870 until World War I, they probably were ordered from a millwork catalogue and supplied from Baltimore or Philadelphia. They were intended to admit as much light as possible to a large room in which windows were sacrificed to display space and to provide an enticing view for the customer. The trim backband is a 5/8" bead with an outside 1" fillet. There are double screen doors of wood.

There were originally four rear side doors from the main store building to the exterior. The one on the northwest side, in the last bay, opens into the courtyard formed by the dwelling, main store section, and side storeroom. The steps are now gone. The door has 2-over-2 panels; the trim is the same as the main entry's. This door (from the rear stair hall, under the stair landing) would have provided quick access to the dwelling, where originally an entry was in the southeast side, in the corner bay nearest the store. The trim remaining, this dwelling entry has been closed with weatherboard on the exterior, as has the entry opposite on the house rear. The doors remain on the interior; they are plain four-panel. The rear door has a 3-light transom.

In the third bay of the store's northwest side, also opening into the courtyard but from the sales room, was a board-and-batten door, visible now only on the interior. Opposite, on the southeast side of the store, along Shallcross Road, there is an entry in the third bay. The door has large 2-over-2 lights over a pair of vertical panels that are recessed and slightly raised but without panel molding. Adding to the opening's capability for delivering light to a dark store interior, there is a two-light transom over a heavy composite transom bar.

The residential-type of entry in the northeast (rearmost) bay of the store's southeast, Shallcross Road side gives notice that this was not a store entry but one for a residential, second-story section of the building. It is not known if, in fact, the second storey was used for a dwelling, either of shopkeeper or of store clerk. After the dwelling was attached perpendicular to the store, it is likely that either the owner or the shopkeeper (perhaps at times the same person) lived there instead of on the second storey. The second storey of similar late nineteenth stores was most often used for storage, sale of Christmas merchandise, and sometimes for a clerk's small quarters. But the hall with handsome stair reached by this entry would not seem to be one for access merely to a storage second storey. On the exterior the door has 2-over-2 recessed and slightly raised panels with very bold bolelection moldings that are raised 1". The upper panel pair is round-headed. On the interior the door's four rectangular panels are flush with beaded edges. The interior architrave has a backband of an ogee-with-bevel molding. There is a four-light transom with a bold composite transom bar that includes a
(continued)

cyma reverse molding. There are three-light sidelights each side of the door over a single vertical recessed and slightly raised panel with ogee-and-bevel applied panel molding. There has been severe building settlement in the area of this door (evidently caused by a rotted sill, which has been replaced). The door has been rehung plumb and the inner architrave also adjusted.

The open-string, dogleg stair that rises along the hall's southwest wall is a typical Victorian catalogue-stair. There are two compoundly-turned balusters per tread that may be of oak. Step ends have simple lattice brackets; treads have beds of applied cove moldings. The large newel has an octagonal base and tapered octagonal shaft, with an intermediate turned section. There is a broad, compoundly turned newel cap, continuous with the rail. There are no intermediates; the rail is continuous until terminating at the southwest wall on the second storey. There is an under-stair closet with 2-over-2 panel door, now off the hinges. Besides the door to the exterior at each end of the hall, there is a door to the 1950s rear addition and a five-panel door to the store sales room.

The one-storey side storeroom, reached from the interior of the main sales room in its southwest corner through a board-and-batten door, has an outside entry under the store's front porch. There is a beaded random board-and-batten door with heavy wood sill and plain trim. The entire architrave measures 4'-7" wide by 7'-5" tall (including sill).

The present main entry to the dwelling is on its southwest side, into the two-storey gable-end addition through its single bay. Also under the two-bay, hipped-roof porch at this entry is an adjacent door in the last bay of the original portion of the dwelling. These entries, which are similar but not identical, have a single large light over two horizontal panels. These entries evidently supplanted the original dwelling entries opposite each other at the store end of the dwelling and which are now closed.

Windows of the store building are all double-hung and with 6-over-6 lights except for an added 1-over-1 window in the rear gable to light the second-storey stair hall. The single ca. 36" x 72" windows flanking the store's main entry are somewhat larger than all other windows, the precursor of the later nineteenth-century large-light display windows that provided both light to interiors with little side-window lighting and gave a view of the store interior from the outside. At these two store-front windows are the building's only remaining shutters. Each has two panels, recessed on one side and flush on the other. Shutters have been removed from second-storey windows. Exterior window trim is the same as that of the main entry, except for the storeroom, which has plain trim. Interior trim is 4-5/8" wide overall; the backband is of 1-5/8" ogee-and-bevel with outside 1" fillet; the lower edge of the apron is beaded. To hold open the lower sash, there is a notched "toggle" of wood, a useful detail seen elsewhere in the upper county on "guillotine" windows.

Most of the dwelling windows are double-hung with 6-over-6 lights and plain trim. Besides 6-over-6 windows, the two dwelling additions also have windows with 2-over-2 lights and 3-over-3 lights. It could not be ascertained whether the dwelling once had shutters since storm windows are in place.

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The gable store roof has a boxed cornice overhanging the walls on sides and ends about 14". The crown is a large cyma recta with fillets and is accented with black paint. There is a small bed molding on a deep frieze ca. 14" deep. On the front gable end there are bold roof returns ca. 24"-30" wide, each with a pair of handsome built-up sawn brackets with lower leg on the deep frieze return. There is also a pair of the same brackets on the frieze at the roof's apex and a pair of intermediate brackets on each side. The long southeast side of the building (along Shallcross Neck Road) likewise has five pairs of brackets. The northwest side's cornice is not bracketed. The rear gable is plain and without returns. The boxed cornice of the dwelling is plain; there is no overhang on the original section's gable end.

The 24-foot deep, large store sales room is open, without median supports except for an added metal column. Although the free-standing counter is not original, the shelves, drawers, and bins that line the side and back walls are, though they may not all have been built at the same time. The long southeast wall has a corner-to-corner wall system (except for the exterior door) of sections of five 8" deep open shelves with beaded edges above an 18" deep wall counter 36" from the floor that has a single horizontal row of drawers below it. The 29-1/2" wide by 11-1/2" high drawer fronts have patterned cast pulls. Beneath each drawer the space to the floor is open, presumably for storage of large items.

The rear (northeast) wall, except for the door to the rear stair hall, also is covered by a storage-display system. However, instead of drawers below the 33" high counter, here there is a horizontal row of seven bins, though all the bins are not the same width. The bins have a lower skirt, a fixed outward-slanting middle portion, and 12" high doors that slant inward at the top and are hinged on their lower edges to the lower fixed portion. There is a single center wooden knob. Two bin doors are gone, and some of the bins have later shelves added. The bottom of the bins is the floor.

The storage-display system continues along the long northwest wall (except for the door to the side-front storeroom and a board-and-batten door to the west courtyard near the rear). Between the rear corner and rear door the system is entirely of shelves, the lower ones deeper. Between the two side doors, two horizontal rows of nine drawers each are below the upper shelves and counter. These drawer fronts (all that is still present in some places) measure 16" wide by 7-3/4" high; they are smaller than the drawers on the opposite wall. The space below the drawers is open; the drawers and the shelves above them are supported by shaped uprights. The wall storage system on all walls is finished below ceiling height with a very large (6") crown molding of cyma and fillets.

The floor is double, of random-width boards, except in the perimeter where the shelves, bins and drawers are installed. Walls behind the storage system are of horizontal boards; the upper part of the main-entry wall is plaster, as was the ceiling originally.

From the rear, second-storey stair hall a narrow hall along the southeast building side led to two rooms. The front room at one time was divided from front to back, but the partition was probably not original. A symbolic mantel, as noted earlier, was on this room's north wall, with a closet adjacent.

Second-storey doors have 2-over-2 plain recessed panels; instead of door knobs, small spring latches close the doors. Door and wall trim is the same used elsewhere, with a bold ogee-and-bevel backband with outside fillet. In the stair hall on the second storey a water closet has been installed in the northeast corner of the building and a door installed to separate the stair hall from the long, narrow side hall leading to the front rooms.

The store's main entry porch is only a few feet from the pavement of the road to Shrewsbury Neck. Continuing to the northwest the plane of the entry gable end and its side storeroom wing is a picket fence that forms a front yard for the dwelling. Between the store's southeast side and Shallcross Road is a grassy strip. To the rear of both buildings is a lawn with several trees and several sheds near the rear lot line. Behind the store lot is a cultivated field.

From the store virtually all of the village can be seen, as well as farm fields, some farm buildings, and woods beyond.

not possible to be sure exactly where these 1860 buildings were located. They appear, however, to have been approximately where by 1877 the Locust Grove Store and the Locust Grove Public School were located. The surviving school was not built until 1867-68, however (though there may have been an earlier school), and the Locust Grove General Store is said to have been built in December of 1870 or 1872.

According to the Hill-Beasten family, which owned the store until 1973, George M. Beasten had been the shopkeeper for another store in Locust Grove during the 1860s. This may have been the store shown on the 1860 map; the old store was said to have been on the west side of the old Route 213 as it led into Locust Grove, behind the house that now stands on the opposite corner. It burned ca. 1948. This other store does appear on the 1877 map. Beasten was said to have been evicted in November 1870 or 1872 by its Still Pond owner. Having saved a considerable sum of money, he supposedly determined to build his own store, doing so during the month of December. Land records reveal that the property actually was not purchased by Beasten in 1872 but rather by his father-in-law, Samuel J. Hill, from William O. Shallcross and his wife Ann (Kent County Land Records JKH 10/662). The sale price was \$600 for 1/2 acre±. Both the sale price and a statement in the deed that the lot "is now occupied by James Pennington as a Restaurant" indicate that some sort of building was present on the lot. Whether it was removed or incorporated into the present building is not known and could not be determined during the field visit. The price also indicates that the store as it appears today is not likely to have been involved in the transaction--it is too low.

The building used at least for Pennington's restaurant would seem to have been built between December 19, 1865, or November 15, 1870 and the date of the sale to Hill in 1872. On the first date Shallcross bought a tract of 87+ acres west of the Shallcross neck road from the estate of James Woodland (d. 1859), whose home farm was Woodland Hall (K-144) in the northeast quadrant of the Locust Grove intersection. Shallcross paid \$7,641.86, or \$87 per acre. At the time of purchase this tract was described as having no buildings (Chancery JKH 2/630-648) and appears to be the tract from which came the lots for the store, church (1881), and schoolhouse (1872, on the same date as the sale from Shallcross to Hill). Shallcross, whose home farm was Castle Carey to the north up Shallcross Neck thus could be called the "developer" of at least the northwest quadrant of Locust Grove; he may have been the seller of the dwelling lots as well. The estate sale was ratified and confirmed on March 2, 1866, and May 4, 1866, and Shallcross received a deed from the estate's trustees dated September 15, 1870 (Land Records JKH 9/449).

In his will dated July 9, 1900, Samuel J. Hill bequeathed to his daughter Sarah Elizabeth Beaston, wife of George M. Beaston, a life estate in his "store house and dwelling on the corner or cross roads at Locust Grove. . . , which is now occupied by Charles M. Sutton as tenant." After her death the property was to go to her two children, Samuel Hill Beaston and George Harvey Beaston (Wills JTH 1/293). In 1917 S. Hill Beasten, in consideration of paying a \$416 judgment on the property to the Third National Bank, \$100 to G. Harvey Beasten of \$100, and \$75 to Sarah E. Beasten, bought out the interest of the other family members in the store property (Land Records APR 2/262). Hill
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Beasten owned the store property until 1969, when he deeded it to his children, Albert H. Beasten and Elizabeth Beasten Miller (Land Records EHP 33/167). They transferred it back to him briefly (for three days) in May 1973 preparatory to the sale to the present owner, William V. McCann (Land Records EHP 51/576 and EHP 51/653).

Locust Grove developed as a crossroads village during the second half of the nineteenth century. It was advantageously located on a northward jog of the old main road leading northeast and then east from Chestertown to Georgetown, Galena and Sassafras and points north. This road, dating from the colonial period, skirted the necks of the Sassafras River to the north, crossing the creeks that divided them where easily forded or bridged. In the twentieth century this road became Route 213, the first Kent County road to be improved (first slagged, then concrete-paved). Secondary roads that were first mere farm lanes but eventually became public roads extended north from the main road in the approximate center of most of the necks. It was at the junction of the road to Shallcross Neck and the main road that Locust Grove developed, with the road to Shrewsbury Neck nearby (later with a spur directly into Locust Grove). As early as 1866, if not earlier, the road to Shallcross Neck was a public road. Nearby to the south was a secondary road leading to the village of Chesterville (originally called New Market); less than halfway distant was Black's (Railroad) Station after the county railroad line was completed in 1870. Located about equidistant on the main road from the larger villages of Kennedyville to the southwest and Galena to the east, Locust Grove came to be a "team-haul" community, more convenient for the surrounding population to visit for services by horse-power than the two more distant villages.

The village enjoyed rapid growth between 1860 and 1877. A store-residence on the southwest corner, across the road from the first store, was owned by C. H. J. Sparks (perhaps the store shown on the 1860 map). The advertisement taken by Sparks, on the same map page as Locust Grove but mistakenly locating his business in Kennedyville, states:

C. H. J. SPARKS, Proprietor of Cash Store. Is now offering to the public a full line of Dry Goods, Notions, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, and other Articles usually kept in a country store. Ready-made Clothing always on hand, or ordered at short notice. My Goods were bought for cash, and can offer better bargains than can be obtained elsewhere. I intend to sell for cash or country Produce....

Another Sparks, B. F. J., was the proprietor of what later came to be called the Davis Hill Mill (K-295), less than two miles to the east of Locust Grove, perhaps providing a supply tie-in with that store.

In the northwest quadrant of the village intersection were shown only the Locust Grove General Store and the 1867-68 school (K-566). The post office is shown as located in this store at that time. The southeast quadrant formed by the crossroads appears to have been the most developed. On the corner was a "blacksmith and wagon shop." The blacksmith shop was said to have endured well into the twentieth century, finally moving operations to
(continued)

the rear of the farm known as Ivingo (K-565). Adjacent to the southwest were a store and then two buildings owned by a J. Willis, perhaps also the owner of the store. To the southeast of the corner was a building belonging to E. Anderson, perhaps housing the business for which he placed a narrative ad:

E. ANDERSON, Wheelwright. All kinds of Repairing done, such as Carts, Wagons and Carriages, and all Farming Implements manufactured and Repaired. All kinds of Wood Work done to order...

Adjacent to the southeast was what may have been Anderson's residence. A Mrs. Druhan was next (presumably a dwelling), and at the end of row was the residence of J. Willis. No buildings are shown in the northeastern quadrant, probably the farm fields of Woodland Hall (K-144).

Clearly Locust Grove had enjoyed much growth within the 17 years between 1860 and 1877. Growth appeared to continue after 1877 as well, though at a reduced rate. At least several frame, two-story village dwellings now extant but not shown on the 1877 map appear to date from the last quarter of the nineteenth century. One of them, gable end to the road like the store, also has double cornice brackets. In December, 1890, (Incorporations Book SB 1/226, Clerk's Office, Kent County Courthouse) the Locust Grove Creamery was incorporated, with Thomas J. Shallcross, Samuel Augustus Merritt, James William Hurtt, Julian Hurtt, Robert Comly, John Carville Sutton, Jr., Charles Showaker Hill, George William Roeder, and John Wesley Boggs as the incorporating directors. Six of the nine are known by the writer to have owned large farms in the vicinity. The stated purposes of the creamery were "the manufacture of butter and cheese from milk and cream and the sale, transportation or other disposition of the products and refuse...also the manufacture of ice in connection with said creamery" as a possible future option. The capital stock was to be \$2,500, divided into 100 shares at a par value of \$25 each. This was a time of creamery building throughout the county, moving the processing of dairy products off at the least the larger farms and into consolidated facilities, most of which have not survived. Nor has the Locust Grove Creamery survived. It is said to have been located on the west side of Shallcross Neck Road, to the north of the Locust Grove General Store property. It is not now certain how long such creameries operated. Eventually the practice of hauling much of the county's unprocessed milk to the train stations (cooling stations), from which it was shipped to Wilmington and Philadelphia, displaced the creameries that many communities came to have. The building of the Locust Grove Methodist Church in 1881-1882 was another indication of community growth and vitality. Along with the school and general store(s), it provided another focus for community activity. In later years, into the twentieth century, Locust Grove also had a fertilizer store. In 1890, according to Cram's atlas of that year in the possession of William McCann, the population of Locust Grove was 150. By comparison, that of Kennedyville was 175, Galena 475, and Chesterville 100.

During the post-Civil War period of the nineteenth century Kent County's population was increasing, and farmers became prosperous by successful peach and pear crops. It was said that at one time much of Shallcross Neck was planted in orchards. During the late nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century Baltimore steamboats called, for fruit
(continued)

and other farm commodities, at Shallcross Wharf, on the Sassafras River at the northern end of the neck road that began at Locust Grove. On the main road north from Chestertown and with a train station and steamboat wharf nearby, Locust Grove became a local center for numerous services. According to William McCann, in 1900 there were seven stores, of various types, in Locust Grove.

With the arrival of motor vehicles, however, area residents became less dependent upon the village for services. It became feasible to trade more frequently than previously at the larger county commercial centers and seek other services there as well. Steamboat service at Shallcross wharf, likewise a victim of the rise of motor vehicles, did not endure. Simultaneously, during World War I and afterwards, pushed partly by increasingly mechanized farm operations, large numbers of Kent Countians left the county to seek employment elsewhere. The long decline in population was reversed only during the middle twentieth century. However, in the 1950s the final blow struck Locust Grove when the Route 213 was rerouted to bypass the village. The Locust Grove Store continued operations after that date, but trade declined. In Locust Grove there are now only eight dwellings, the unoccupied school, and the general store. The Methodist church collapsed in the late 1970s after years of disuse.

A circa 1950 photograph of the store shows it much as it is today except for hanging metal signs, a pair of gas pumps and an oil company sign outside the southeast end of the porch, and a small structure behind them along the southeast side of the building. One sign stated John H. Legg to be the proprietor.

William McCann, the present owner, purchased the church, store, and school property, as well as one or more houses, in the 1970s. He envisioned a restored late nineteenth-early twentieth century village to be used as a crafts village. There were to be shops for artists and their crafts, a bakery, and a restaurant. However, the rehabilitation of Locust Grove has been only partially accomplished, with work done on some of the buildings. Only the old store has been used as a shop. Locust Grove's being off the main highway continues to be a handicap.

Found in a box in the side storeroom after the present owner took possession are account books and inventories dating back to 1870. There is also a book for 1869, supposedly for the other Locust Grove store that the original shopkeeper left to build this new store. There are also notations about the weather for some periods. These old records are an important document for understanding earlier periods and the role of the crossroads general store in them; they should be carefully preserved.

9.1 Continued

Kent County Land Records, Kent County Courthouse, Chestertown, MD.

Kent County Wills, Kent County Courthouse, Chestertown, MD.

Kent County Chancery Court Records, Kent County Courthouse,
Chestertown, Md. (title research by T.C. Davis, Worton, Md.)



Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
KENT COUNTY
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Account Identifier: District - 02 Account Number - 008807

Owner Information

Owner Name: KARLIK, JOSEPH R &
NICOLE A IN DEN BOSCH
Use: RESIDENTIAL
Principal Residence: YES
Mailing Address: 29398 OLD LOCUST GROVE RD
KENNEDYVILLE MD 21645-3458
Deed Reference: 1) MLM/ 217/ 537
2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address 29398 OLD LOCUST GROVE ROAD
KENNEDYVILLE 21645
Zoning
Legal Description LOT 0.50 ACRES
29398 -400 OLD LOCUST GR
W OF LOCUST GROVE

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:
14	2D	22						82	Plat Ref:
Special Tax Areas			Town Ad Valorem Tax Class						
Primary Structure Built			Enclosed Area		Property Land Area			County Use	
1920			3,168 SF		21,780.00 SF				
Stories		Basement		Type			Exterior		
2		NO		STANDARD UNIT			FRAME		

Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2003	Phase-in Assessments	
			As Of 07/01/2003	As Of 07/01/2004
Land:	35,490	39,190		
Improvements:	26,940	81,110		
Total:	62,430	120,300	81,720	101,010
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller: MCCANN, WILLIAM V
Type: MULT ACCTS ARMS-LENGTH
Date: 03/28/2001
Deed1: MLM/ 217/ 537
Price: \$117,000
Deed2:
Seller:
Type:
Date:
Deed1:
Price:
Deed2:
Seller:
Type:
Date:
Deed1:
Price:
Deed2:

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt: NO
Exempt Class:

Special Tax Recapture:

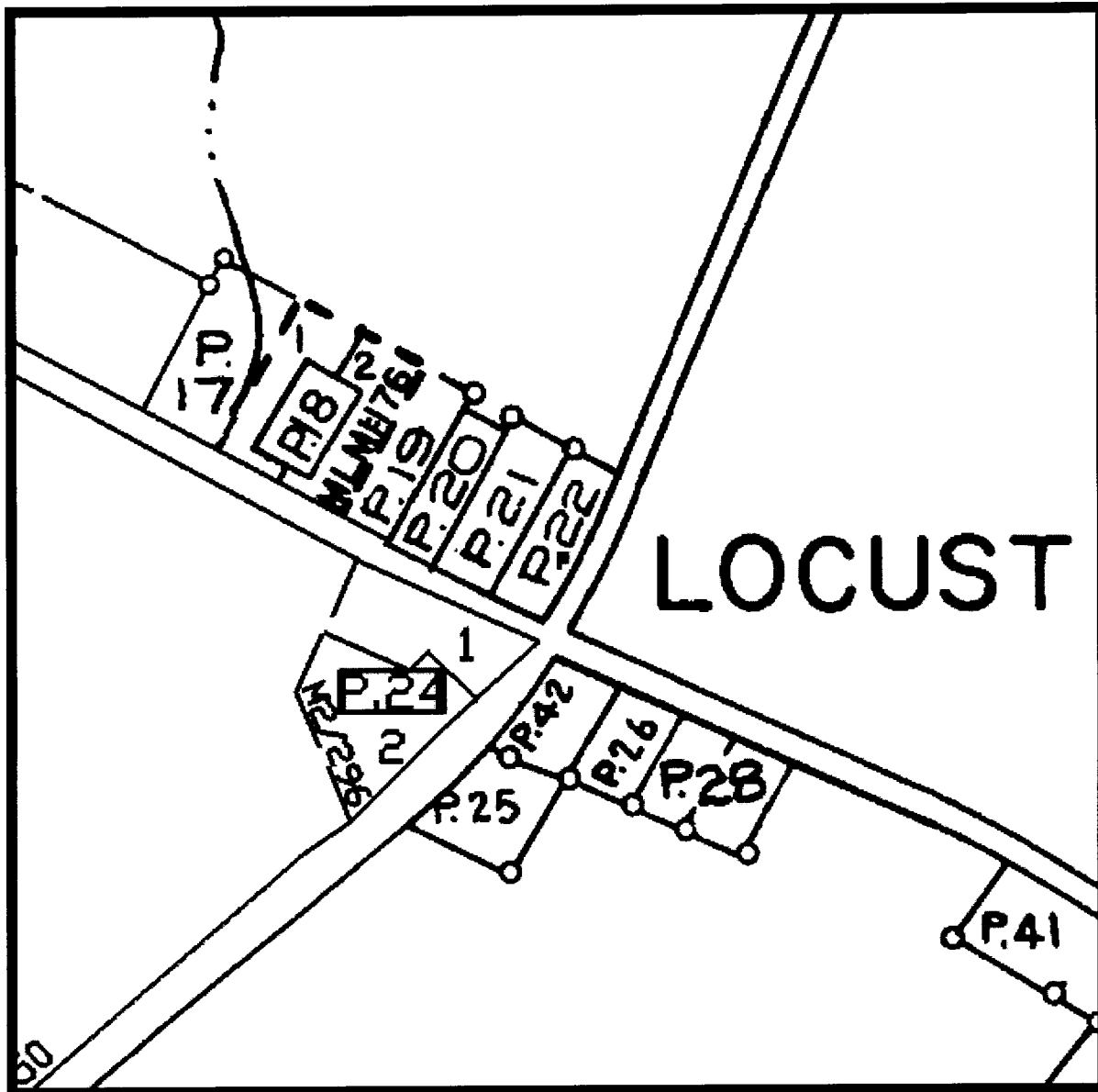
* NONE *



Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
KENT COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

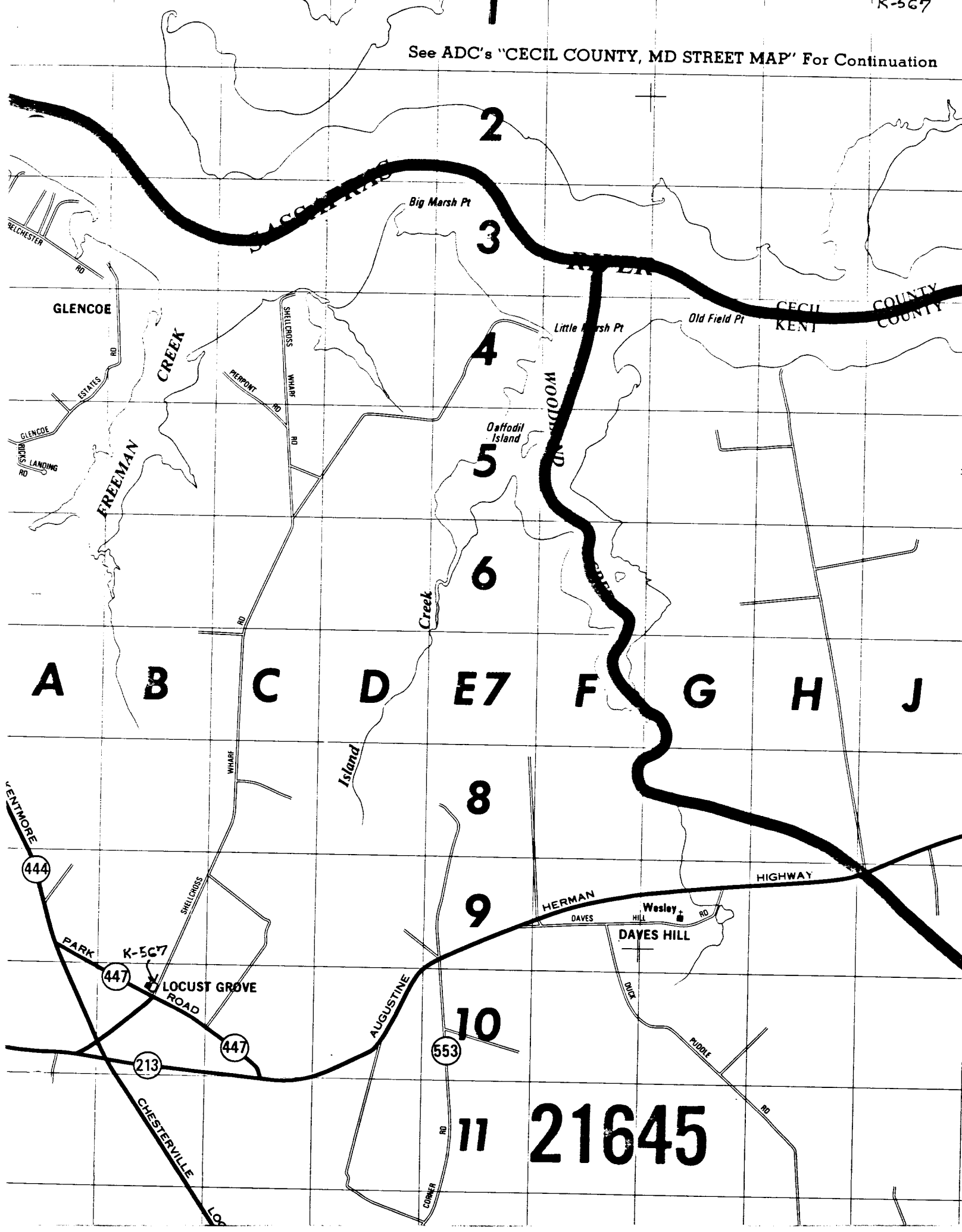
[Go Back](#)
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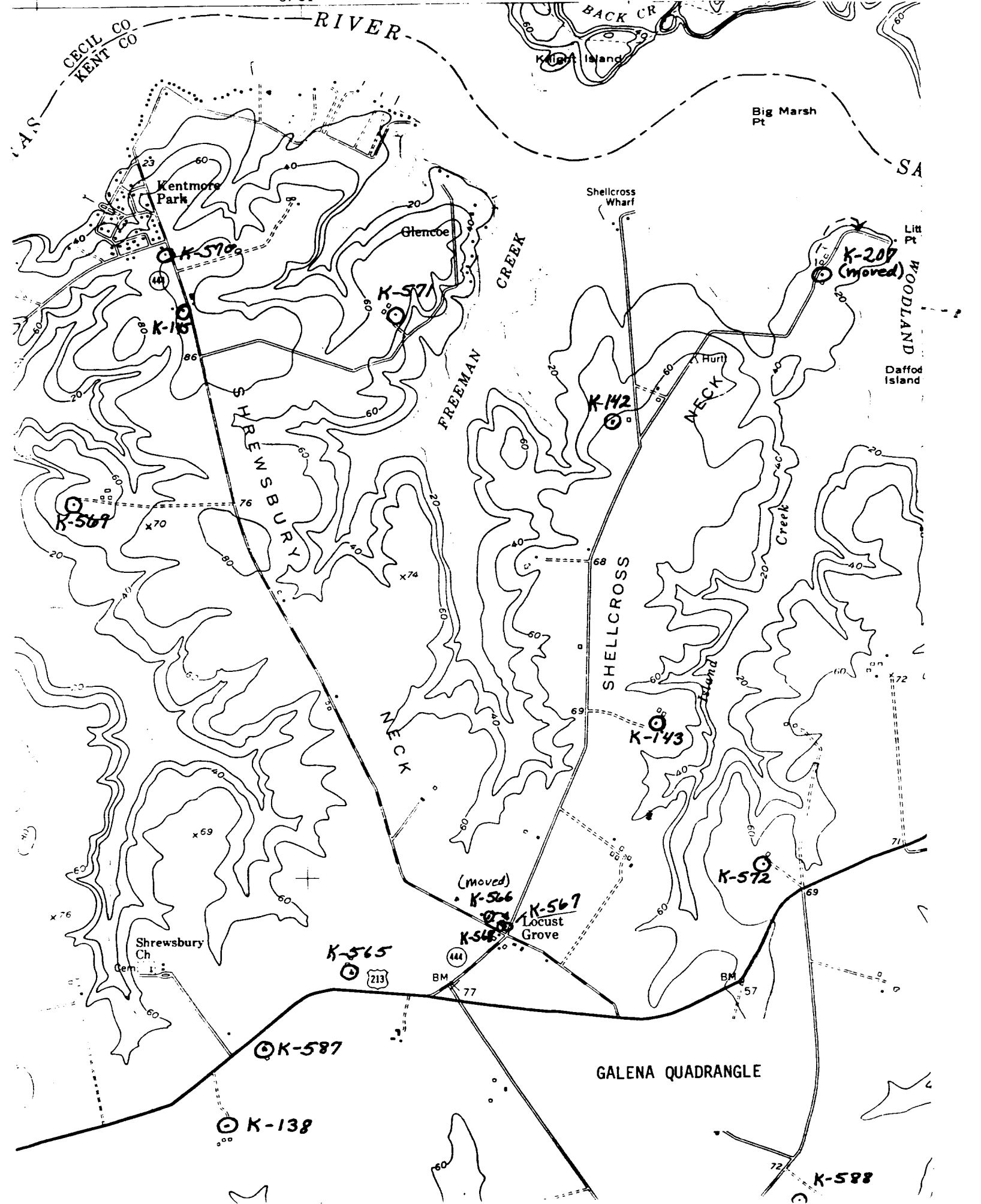
District - 02 **Account Number - 008807**



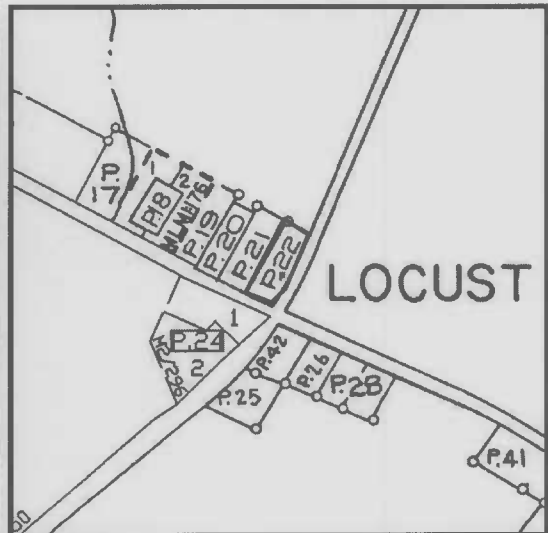
Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2001.
For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning
web site at www.mdp.state.md.us/webcom/index.html

See ADC's "CECIL COUNTY, MD STREET MAP" For Continuation





Tax Map 14, p. 22



An aerial photograph showing a rural landscape. A road runs diagonally from the top left towards the bottom right. To the left of the road, there are large, rectangular fields. To the right of the road, there is a cluster of buildings, possibly a farm or small village, surrounded by trees and vegetation. The overall scene is captured in a high-contrast, black and white style.



K-567

Locust Grove Store

Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 8/1/85

View to southwest



K-567

Locust Grove Store

Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 8/1/85

View to north